

Message Text

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ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SS-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03

USIA-15 ACDA-19 IO-15 DPW-01 DRC-01 NEA-10 EUR-25

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R 130615Z OCT 73

FM AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 6208

C O N F I D E N T I A L VIENTIANE 7050

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MOPS, LA

SUBJECT: LEAGUE OF FAMILIES VISIT

1. AT 1130 HOURS 12 OCTOBER 5 MEMBERS OF THE LEAGUE CALLED ON AMBASSADOR DHAMIJA, CHAIRMAN OF THE INTERNATIONAL CONTROL COMMISSION. DURING THE ONE-HOUR DISCUSSION, THE AMBASSADOR PRESENTED A DETAILED BRIEFING OF THE STRUCTURE OF THE ICC IN LAOS AND ITS POSSIBLE FUTURE ROLE IN ASSISTING IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROTOCOL.

2. DURING THE MEETING HE INDICATED THAT HE HAD TALKED WITH THE LPF DELEGATION IN VIENTIANE ON THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF EXCHANGE OF PW/MIA ACTIVITIES PRESCRIBED IN PARAGRAPH 18 OF THE PROTOCOL. HE INDICATED THAT HE WOULD BE MEETING LPF PERMREP SOTH PHETASY AT A FORMAL FUNCTION THAT EVENING AND WOULD RELAY THE LEAGUE'S CONCERN ABOUT IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 18 OF THE PROTOCOL STRESSING AGAIN THE HUMANITARIAN ASPECTS OF THE PROBLEM.

3. ICC INDIAN DELEGATION MILITARY ADVISOR BRIGADIER MICHIGAN BUTTONHOLED LPF PERMREP SOTH PHETASY ON MIA/DIC QUESTIONS EVENING OF OCTOBER 12, WITH ARMA PRESENT. MICHIGAN MADE STRONG CASE FOR RAPID IMPLEMENTATION OF ARTICLE 18 OF PROTOCOL ON HUMANI-
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TARIAN GROUNDS. SOTH REJECTED HIS VIEWS AND STATED PROGRESS

ON MIA/DIC ISSUE MUST AWAIT IMPLEMENTATION OF POLITICAL PROVISIONS OF PROTOCOL AND ARRANGEMENT FOR INFLUX OF LPF PERSONNEL TO VIENTIANE AND LUANG PRABANG. ARMA PRESSED SOTH TO RECEIVE DELEGATION FROM LEAGUE OF FAMILIES GROUP, AS EMBASSY HAS REQUESTED, BUT SOTH PLEADED PRESS OF BUSINESS AND APPEARED TO BE AWAITING INSTRUCTIONS WHETHER TO DO SO.

4. ARMA RAISED WITH SOTH QUESTION OF ARTICLE 18 (D) OF PROTOCOL ON EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION ON NUMBERS OF PRISONERS AND IDENTITIES OF DIC'S, DEADLINE FOR WHICH UNDER PROTOCOL IS OCTOBER 14. SOTH WOULD NOT ACKNOWLEDGE EXISTANCE OF THIS PROVISION.

5. FOUR MEMBERS OF GROUP, THREE OF WHOM HAVE RELATIVES MIA IN NORTH VIETNAM, EXPRESSED DESIRE TO CALL AT DRV EMBASSY. THEY WERE ACCOMPANIED TO EMBASSY GATE BY EMBOFF OCTOBER 12, AND RECEIVED COURTEOUSLY BY DRV CHARGE. HE GAVE THEM APPOINTMENT FOR THIS MORNING, FOR WHICH WE PROVIDED AMERICAN DEPENDENT INTERPRETOR. WE WILL REPORT FURTHER DETAILS OF THIS MEETING WHEN WE DEBRIEF MEMBERS OF GROUP.

WHITEHOUSE

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: POW, MIA, ARMISTICE, HUMAN RIGHTS, AGREEMENTS, VISITS, MEETINGS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 13 OCT 1973
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: golinofr
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1973VIENTI07050
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS WHITEHOUSE
Errors: N/A
Film Number: n/a
From: VIENTIANE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1973/newtext/t19731034/aaaaayph.tel
Line Count: 81
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE
Office: ACTION EA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: golinofr
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 28 NOV 2001
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <28-Nov-2001 by kelleyw0>; APPROVED <21-Dec-2001 by golinofr>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: LEAGUE OF FAMILIES VISIT
TAGS: PGOV, PINT, MOPS, LA, ICC, LEAGUE OF FAMILIES, LPF
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005